

MONTHLY NOTICES

OF THE

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

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May 9, 1879.

No. 7.

Lord LINDSAY, M.P., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Captain Edward Barnes, The Lawn, Belper ;

The Rev. William Conybeare Bruce, M.A., St. Nicholas' Rectory, Glamorganshire ;

George Thorn Gwilliam, Esq., 35 Lansdowne Crescent, W. ;

John Penn Hartree, Esq., M.A., M.B., Strandtown, Belfast ;

Charles Augustus Jenkins, Esq., University Observatory, Oxford ; and

William Edward Plummer, Esq., University Observatory, Oxford ;

were balloted for and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

Extract from the Minutes of the Council, May 9, 1879.

"Since the publication of the *Monthly Notices* of the Society for January 1879 the attention of the Council has been recalled to an article headed 'Notes on the late Admiral Smyth's "Cycle of Celestial Objects &c.,"' by Herbert Sadler, Esq.,' containing remarks on several of the star measures given in that Catalogue, and also containing a sentence reflecting on the 'Reference Catalogue of Multiple and Double Stars,' forming vol. xl. of the *Memoirs*.

"The Council, feeling themselves responsible for the contents of the Society's publications, cannot but express their regret that they should have authorised the printing of this article in its present form.

"While they desire to uphold to the utmost perfect freedom in the criticism of scientific works, they would at the same time enforce a general rule to exclude from the Society's publications any imputation upon the personal honour or good faith of the authors ; and they are sorry to observe in Mr. Sadler's article some remarks which are capable of being, and to the knowledge of the Council have been, construed in a sense which infringes this rule.

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“The Council are, moreover, of opinion that Mr. Sadler was not justified in passing a sweeping condemnation on the Reference Catalogue, which is irrelevant to the rest of the article, and is entirely unsupported by the citation of the instances on which his judgment was founded.’

It was resolved that these resolutions be read at the Meeting of the Society, and printed in the next Number of the *Monthly Notices*.

Note on Sir John Herschel's Reference Catalogue of Double Stars.

By Professor Pritchard, F.R.S.

Those astronomers who are seriously engaged, or otherwise interested, in the computation of the orbits of double stars, or are engaged in furnishing data for such investigations, are informed and requested to bear in mind that Sir John Herschel's references to the Catalogues of the two Struves apply solely to the Catalogues as originally published by those most eminent astronomers, and are independent of the corrections which they subsequently found it necessary to make to their original printed observations.

To working astronomers it may perhaps be unnecessary to add that they will find the corrigenda on consulting *Positiones Medice*, page xcii., or the *Recueil des Mémoires présentés à l'Académie des Sciences par les Astronomes de Poulkova etc.*, t. I., St.-Petersbourg, 1853.

Order of Publication of successive Volumes of the Poulkova Observations. By M. Otto Struve.

(Extract from a Letter to A. M. W. Downing.)

In reply to your letter, I beg leave to inform you that vol. viii. of the *Observations de Poulkova* is not yet published. According to a resolution formerly taken, vol. viii. is designed for the Catalogue to be deduced from the meridian observations inserted in vols. vi. and vii. This Catalogue, though the reductions are considerably advanced, is not yet finished; and its publication has been considerably delayed by the lamented death of Dr. von Asten, to whom the work had been entrusted. For these reasons it can hardly be expected that vol. viii. will be published and distributed before 1881. In a similar way vol. x. of the *Observations* is designed to contain the continuation of my micrometrical measures of double stars, but as yet I have hardly been able to begin the reduction of these measures. Therefore vol. x. will not appear for a couple of years; whilst vol. xi., containing the continuation of our fundamental determinations